

THE CLAIMS

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A method for using a computer to enable or to facilitate communication between 2 or more parties in which a party pays a fee, bears a cost, or provides consideration which benefits in part the receiving party, comprising:

- i. utilizing a network presence;
- ii. inputting into the computer search terms or information, including by the use of clicks on hypertext links, to search for or to locate an address, account, location, or reference identification associated with a specific party to receive the communication;
- iii. inputting into the computer information that creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses, or directs a communication or transmission;
- iv. inputting into the computer a payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable a party to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or

consideration that in whole or in part benefit a receiver party;

v. charging or requiring a threshold payment of fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits, or a present transfer of benefits or consideration by Caller Party, Fan, or other party on Caller Party or Fan's behalf prior to connecting, sending, transmitting, or forwarding Caller Party's or Fan's communication to Receiver Party's account, address, or to a location associated with a specific receiver;

vi. segregating, transmitting, storing, holding, distributing, or passing through transmissions or communications directed to an account, address, or location associated with a specific receiver, account, or address;

vii. compensating party who receives communications or participates in the method.

2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of utilizing a network presence, comprises:

i. establishing a network presence on one or more networks, computers. or devices;

ii. and further comprising:

establishing unique addresses, accounts, mailboxes, pass-through means, or other

identifiers or repositories for parties to receive communications or transmissions;

and providing a network accessible searchable database or information display or interface to enable a party to browse, to search for, to locate, or to find an address, account, location, or reference identification associated with a specific party to receive the communication;

and providing additional information, pages references, links, or other data about or concerning the receiver party or its associations.

3. The method of claim 1, in which the step of inputting into the computer search terms or information to search for or to locate the address, account, location, or reference identification associated with a specific party to receive the communication, comprises:

- i. establishing unique addresses, accounts, mailboxes, pass-through means, or other identifiers or repositories for parties to receive, store, or access communications or transmissions;
- ii. verifying, checking, or authenticating that the specific parties to receive the

communication are authentically associated with the commonly known party most often or commonly associated in the public's mind with the name or association of the name given as a party intending to receive communication;

- iii. Providing a means to search, find, locate, identify, and access addresses, accounts, locations, or reference identifications associated with a specific party to receive the communication or transmission;
- iv. Providing additional information about the receiver party or its associations.

4. The method of claim 1, in which the step of inputting into the computer search terms or information to search for or to locate the address, account, location, or reference identification associated with a specific party to receive the communication, comprises:

- i. establishing addresses, accounts, locations, reference identifications, identifiers, channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other repositories, pass-through accounts, addresses, sites, or means for parties to receive or to store communication or transmission;

- ii. organizing the addresses, accounts, locations, reference identifications, identifiers, channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site addresses or pages, storage accounts, or other repositories, pass-through accounts, addresses, sites or means so that they can be searched and located by the name or association of the parties to receive the communication or transmission;
- iii. providing a means to search, find, locate, identify, and access addresses, accounts, locations, or reference identifications associated with an account or address associated with a specific party to receive the communication or transmission.

5. The method of claim 1, in which the step of inputting into the computer information that creates, formats, forwards, edits, modifies, addresses, or directs a communication or transmission, comprises:

- i. Providing services or means to enable parties to input information such as text, audio, or graphics or to create, to format, or to direct communications, e-mail, or transmissions.

6. The method of claim 1, in which the step of inputting into the computer a payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, or otherwise to transfer benefits or consideration comprises:

- i. Establishing terms, conditions, and legal agreements between the parties;
- ii. Inputting or enabling parties to input into the computer information to accept or to form a legally binding contract or agreement between the parties;
- iii. providing services or means to enable one or more parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to debit, to access benefits, to license, to provide consideration, or otherwise to compensate or benefit one or more other parties;
- iv. providing services or means to process payment, to transact financial transfers, to authenticate or authorize transactions, to charge a party a fee or cost, to receive payment and consideration, to segregate consideration received, to account for

consideration received, or otherwise to enable
a party to provide or to transfer
consideration.

7. The method of claim 1, in which the step of segregating,
transmitting, storing, holding, distributing, or passing
through transmissions or communications directed to an
account, address, or location associated with a specific
party, receiver, account, or address comprises:

- i. Segregating, storing, holding, or directing
transmissions or communications directed to a
specific receiver party in or to an account,
location or address associated with a specific
receiver party;
- ii. transmitting, passing through, or distributing
communication to Receiver parties or to an
account or address or location associated with
receiver party on or corresponding to a
receiver party's request or agreement to
access or receive communication.

8. The method of claim 1, in which the step of compensating
party who receives communications or participates in the
method comprises:

- i. Receiving, authorizing, and segregating
financial and beneficial transfers;

- ii. accounting for fees, revenues, costs, and other items;
- iii. transmitting, storing, holding, or distributing communication to receiver parties or to an account or address or location associated with receiver;
- iv. enabling parties that have received communication to access the communication by enabling the parties to download, read, view, or otherwise access the communication;
- v. compensating or paying parties that have received communication or participated for his or her or their reception, participation, or per agreement.

9. A method for enabling or facilitating communication in which a Merchant Intermediary enables or facilitates one party to pay a fee, bear a cost, or provide consideration that in whole or in part benefits the party that receives the communication for the right or opportunity to transmit or to direct a communication to the receiver party, comprising:

- i. establishing an interface, site, identifier, or network presence on one or more networks or devices;

- ii. establishing addresses, accounts, identifiers, channels, codes, e-mail addresses, web site addresses, storage accounts, or other repositories, pass-through accounts, addresses, sites, or means;
- iii. establishing one or more unique ~~sites~~, accounts, or addresses for unique receiver parties in which the Merchant Intermediary may hold, segregate, or pass through information or transmissions directed to a specific Receiver, account, or address;
- iv. establishing a means for a party to locate the address or account of a specific receiver party;
- v. providing services or means to allow parties to create, to format, or to direct communications or transmissions to specified receiver parties;
- vi. providing services or means to allow parties to pay for, to assume a cost or obligation, to charge or otherwise to bill, to account, to access benefits, to debit, to license, or otherwise to compensate or benefit the Merchant Intermediary or the Receiver;
- vii. charging or requiring a threshold payment of fee, accounting of pre-existing benefits, or a

present transfer of benefits or consideration by Caller Party, Fan, or other party on Caller Party or Fan's behalf prior to connecting, sending, transmitting, or forwarding Caller Party's or Fan's communication to Receiver Party's account, address, or to a location associated with a specific receiver;

- viii. providing services or means to receive fees, to segregate benefits received, to charge parties a fee or cost or otherwise processes financial transactions or transfers associated with a party's acquiring the right or the opportunity to transmit or to direct communication to an address or account associated with a specific Receiver party;
- ix. receiving, authorizing and accounting for fees, revenues, costs, and other items;
- x. transmitting, storing, holding, or distributing communication to Receiver parties or to accounts, addresses, or locations associated with Receiver parties;
- xi. compensating or paying Receiver parties for his or her or their participation.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the party is referred or delivered directly to a page, address, account, or location associated with a receiver party such that the party does not have to input or to search for or locate the page, address, account, or location associated with a receiver party.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the party does not have to input or enter any information or data relating to the address, account, or content of the communication because the communication is pre-existing or automatically directed, forwarded, transmitted, or otherwise addressed or sent to the address or account corresponding to the specific receiver party.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the party does not have to enter any payment identifier, account information, security code, or other information to enable the party to access an existing account, to transfer payment, or to provide consideration because the party's computer or other device, for example by use of cookies or other means, automatically provides this or other information.

13. [Withdrawn]

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver party is compensated with consideration other than money.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver party may set the terms, price, and conditions of the agreement or communication.
16. The method of claim 9 where the communication is stored on the email server, host computer, or other device of the Merchant Intermediary and not transmitted immediately to another computer.
17. The method of claim 1 where the communication includes one of more types or kinds of data or information including for example, text, characters, audio, graphics, compressed video, or any other type of information that can be expressed in binary or digital form.
18. The method of claim 9 wherein the caller party accesses the Merchant Intermediary by utilizing a voice network or communicates using voice or audio information.
19. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps or processes are automated or performed automatically, except for the

steps ii-iv of claim 1 where they require inputting information into the computer.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps ii-iv of the method and steps may be taken in different orders or sequences or performed simultaneously.